

STAR WARS

MARVEL

DARTH VADER

010

GILLEN
LARROCA
DELGADO



delgado

delgado

SHADOWS AND SECRETS

It is a period of uncertainty. After the destruction of the Death Star by a Force-strong rebel pilot, the Sith Lord DARTH VADER has taken it upon himself to discover the pilot's true identity under the Empire's ever-watchful eye.

Using the expertise of archaeologist and droid expert DOCTOR APHRA and a carefully selected crew of bounty hunters, Vader looted a stash of credits from an Imperial cruiser under the guise of an accident. However, Vader's new adjutant Inspector Thanoth knows that all is not what it seems and plans to investigate the situation further.

Meanwhile Aphra, along with droids BT-1 and 000, are off to continue Vader's mission: chasing information on the rebel pilot....

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The Dragon's Mansion, Anthan Prime.

PLEASE, I
SURRENDER!

I'LL TELL YOU
EVERYTHING!

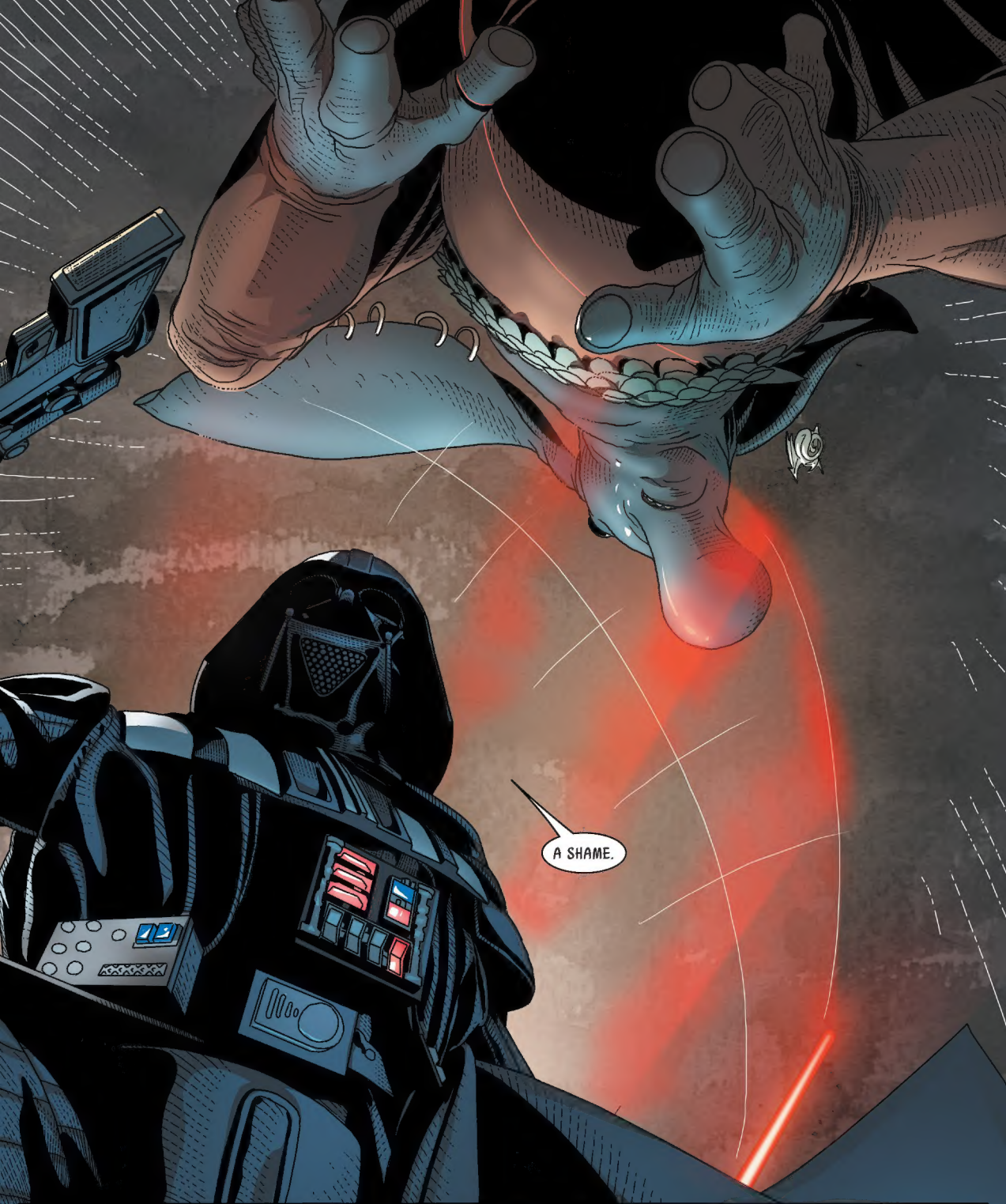


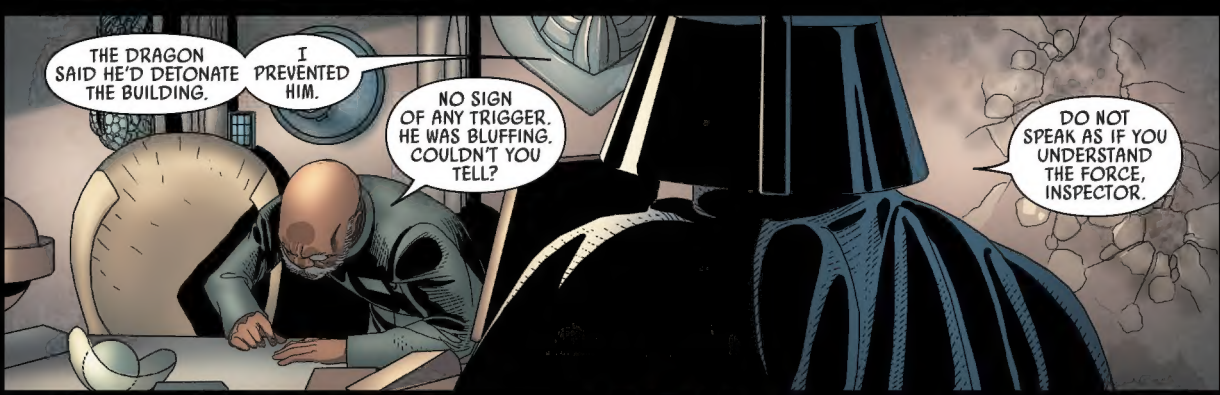
WILL YOU
REVEAL TO
WHOM YOU
SOLD
EXPLOSIVES?



YES!





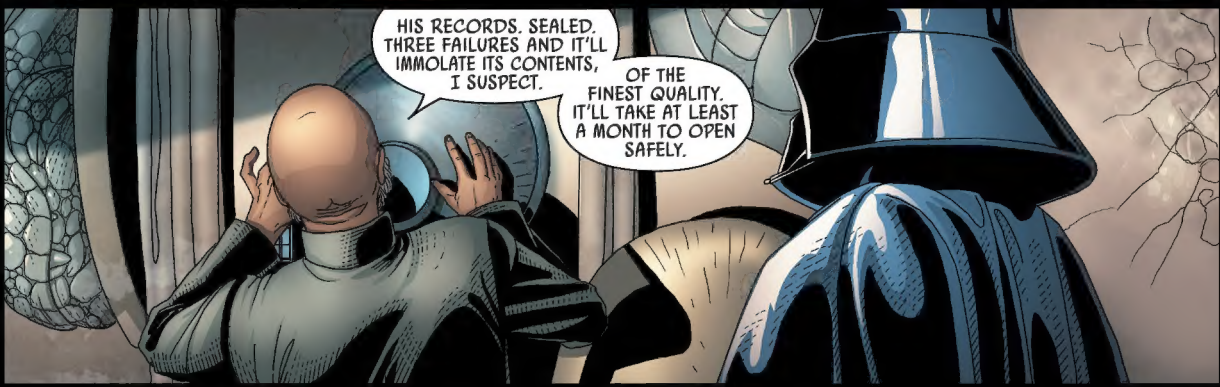


THE DRAGON
SAID HE'D DETONATE
THE BUILDING.

I
PREVENTED
HIM.

NO SIGN
OF ANY TRIGGER.
HE WAS BLUFFING.
COULDN'T YOU
TELL?

DO NOT
SPEAK AS IF YOU
UNDERSTAND
THE FORCE,
INSPECTOR.



HIS RECORDS. SEALED.
THREE FAILURES AND IT'LL
IMMOLATE ITS CONTENTS,
I SUSPECT.

OF THE
FINEST QUALITY.
IT'LL TAKE AT LEAST
A MONTH TO OPEN
SAFELY.



I MUST TRY.
IMMEDIATELY.

IS
THE URGENCY
NECESSARY?



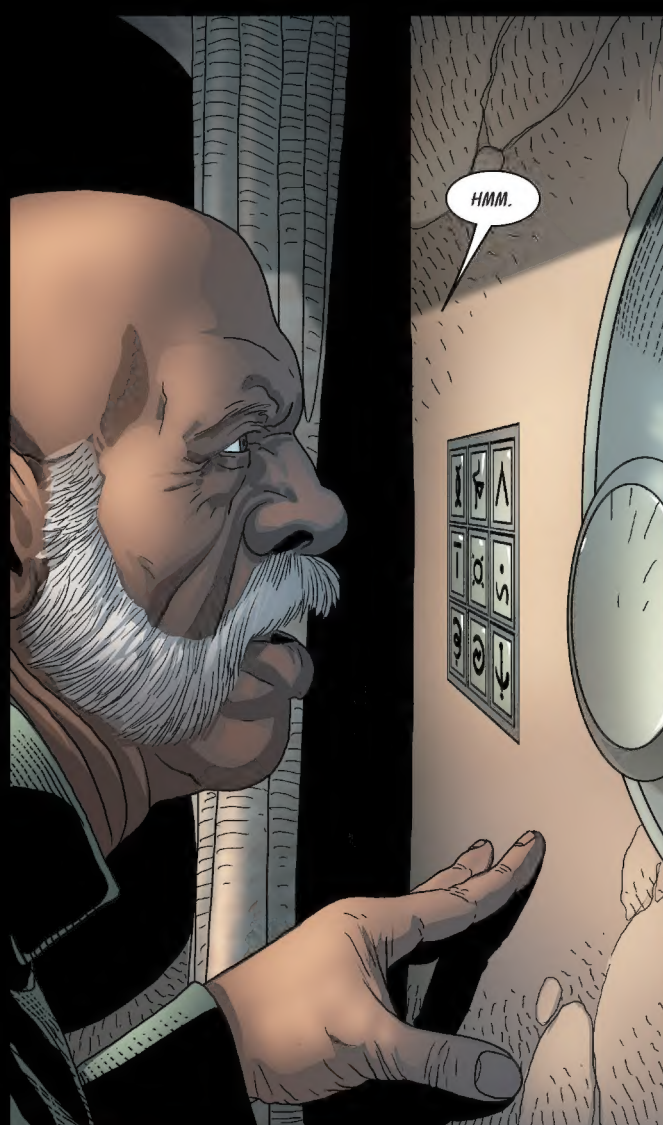
CRIMINALS ARE LIKE
BUGS. THE SLIGHTEST HINT
OF THE LIGHT AND THEY
SCUTTLE AWAY, NEVER TO
BE FOUND AGAIN.

WE ARE
DISTURBING THE
TOPSOIL. YOU CAN
BE CERTAIN THEY ARE
ALREADY BURROWING
AWAY FROM US.



DO I HAVE YOUR
PERMISSION? I MAY
LOSE EVERYTHING
AND WE'D BE BACK
TO THE START OF
THIS SORRY
ENDEAVOR...

BE
SURE NOT
TO FAIL.



HMM.



KILL!
KILL!
BLEEP!

NO.



KILL!
KILL!
KILL!
KILL!
BLEEP!

NO.



KILL!
KILL!
BLEEP!

AH!

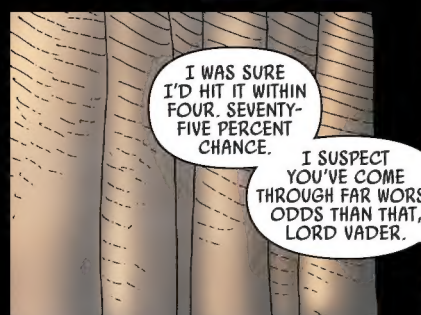


HOW?

ORTOLAN
SECRETIONS ARE
QUITE DISTINCTIVE. THE
AMOUNT OF SWEAT ON
EACH BUTTON SHOWS
HOW OFTEN IT'S IN
THE SEQUENCE.

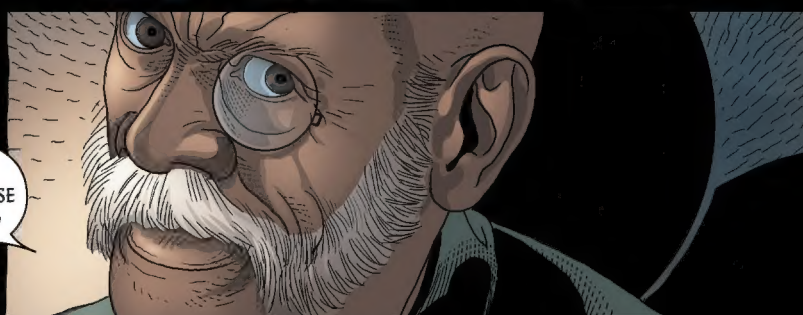
A LOGIC
PUZZLE,
ESSENTIALLY.

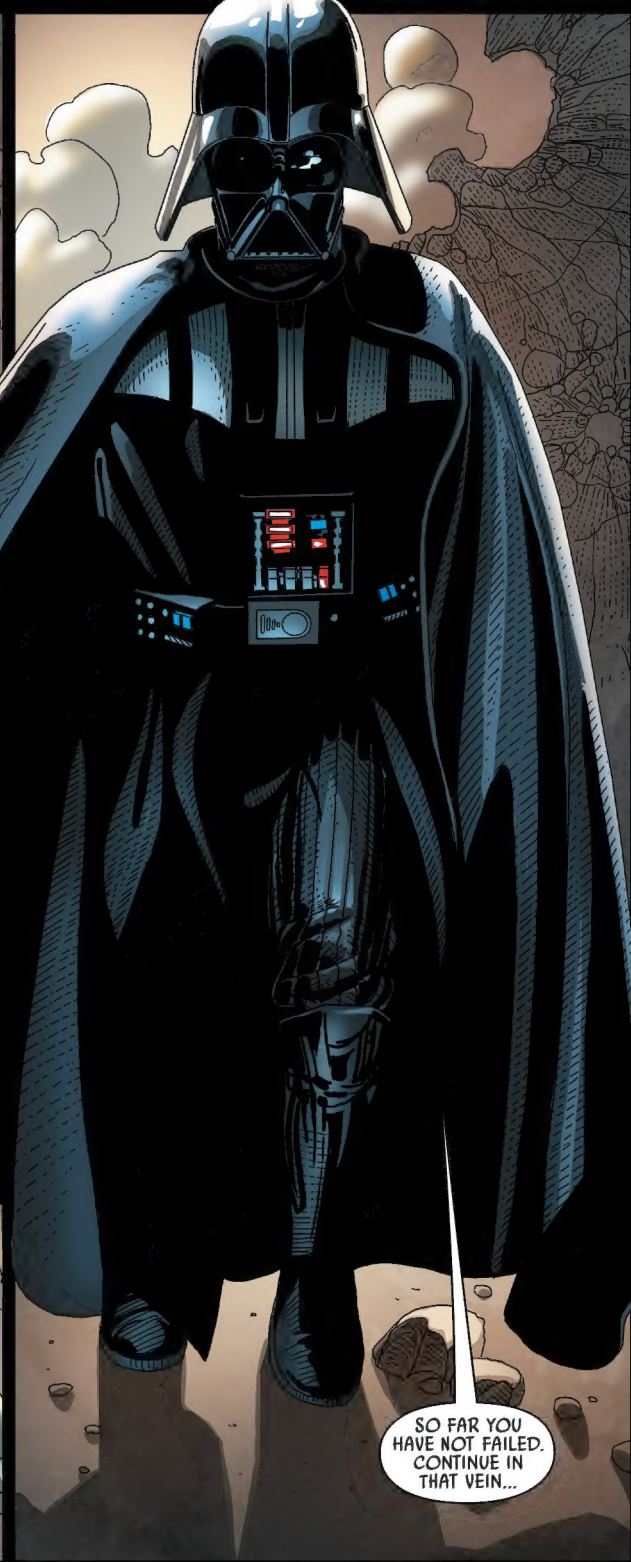
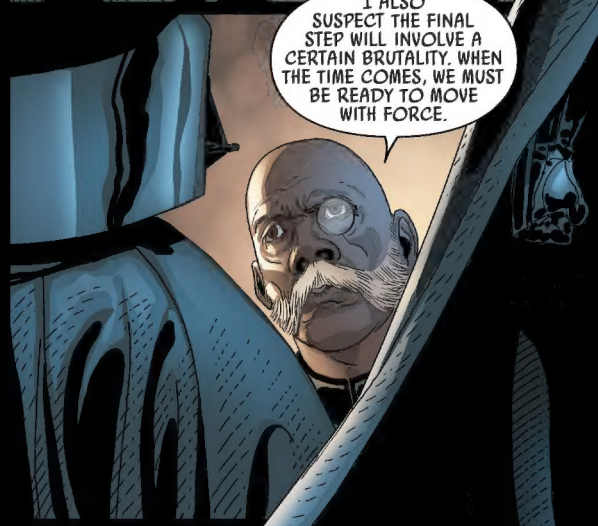
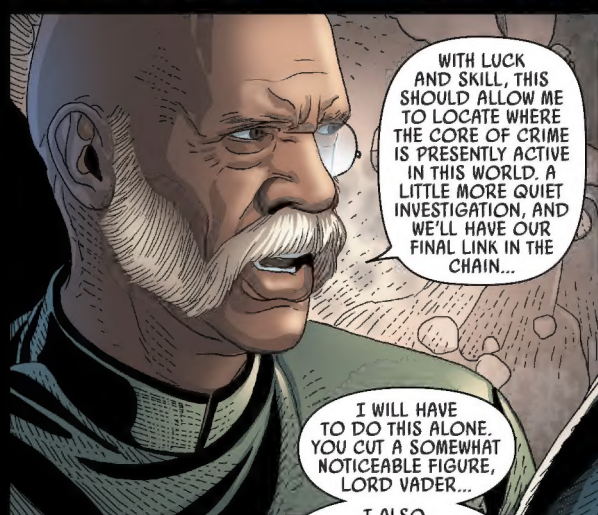
I FILTERED THE
REMAINDER BASED
UPON WHAT I SUSPECT A
MAN OF THE DRAGON'S
LIMITED INTELLECT
COULD RECALL.



I WAS SURE
I'D HIT IT WITHIN
FOUR. SEVENTY-
FIVE PERCENT
CHANCE.

I SUSPECT
YOU'VE COME
THROUGH FAR WORSE
ODDS THAN THAT,
LORD VADER.



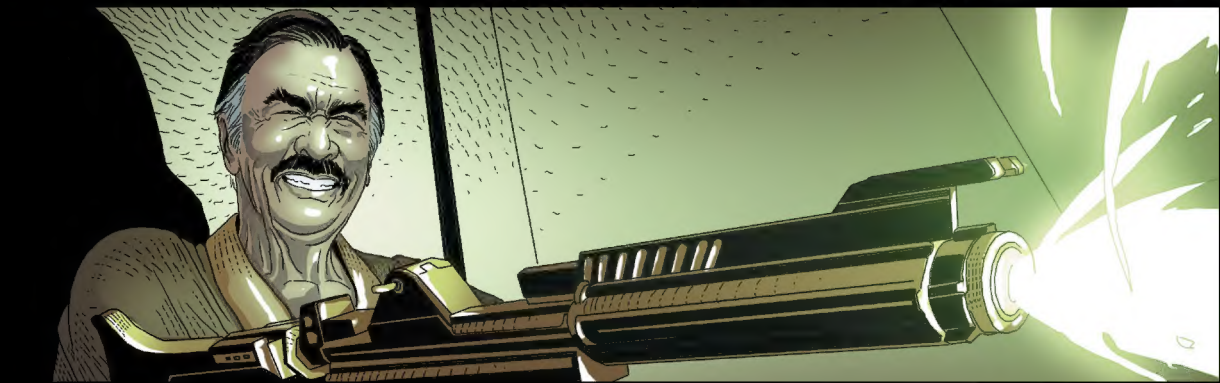


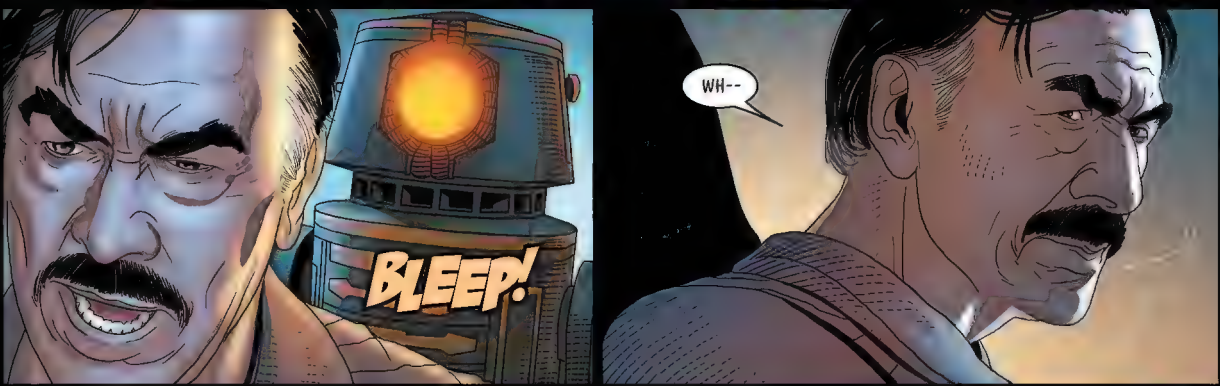
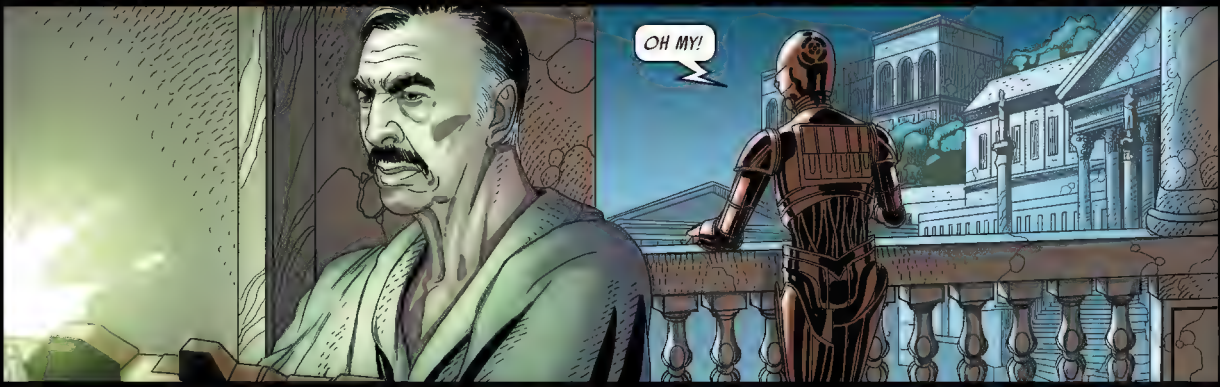
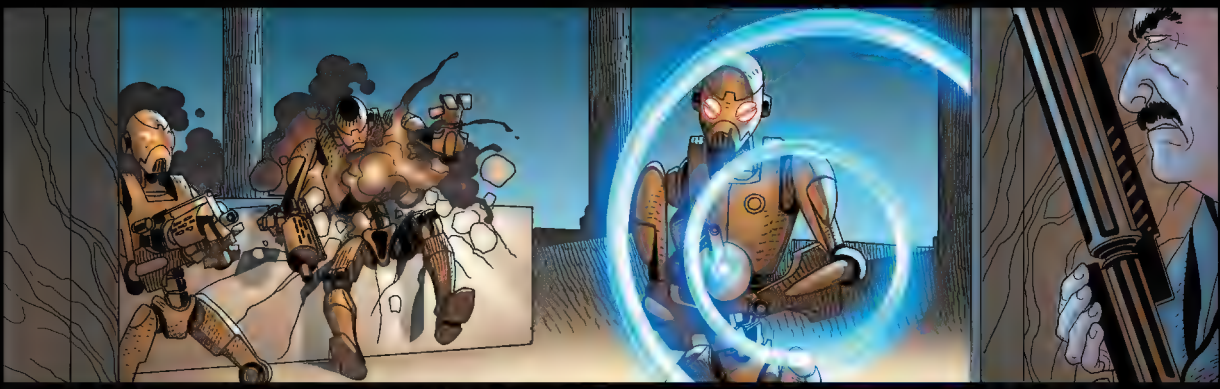
"...YOU DO NOT WANT
TO DISCOVER WHAT
HAPPENS TO THOSE
WHO DISAPPOINT ME."

Naboo.











BEETEE.
I SAID
STUN!

WITH THE GREATEST
RESPECT, MISTRESS
APHRA, THE MOST
IMPORTANT PART
OF YOUR ORDER
WAS "ALIVE."

BEETEE IS VERY
MUCH A BIG-
PICTURE SORT
OF THINKER.



AND HIS BIG PICTURE
PRIMARILY CONSISTS
OF ORGANICS
GETTING SHOT.

**BLEEP!
BLEEP!**

ENOUGH!
FIND WHATEVER
SAFE HE HAS. GET
IT OPEN, BEETEE.
CLEAN IT OUT.

WE NEED
TO MAKE THIS
LOOK LIKE A
ROBBERY.



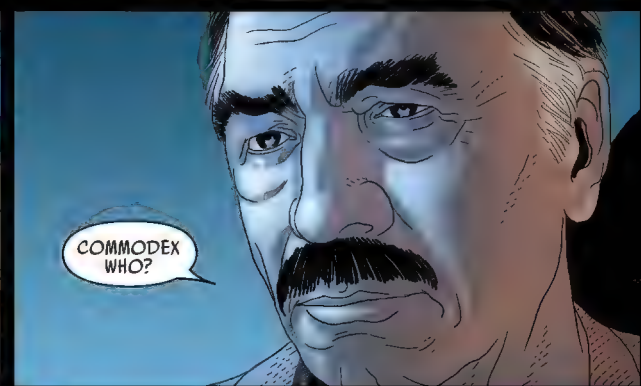
SO YOU'RE
GOING TO KILL
ME NO MATTER
WHAT I DO.

YOU'RE NOT
GIVING ME MUCH
MOTIVATION TO
HELP, MISS.

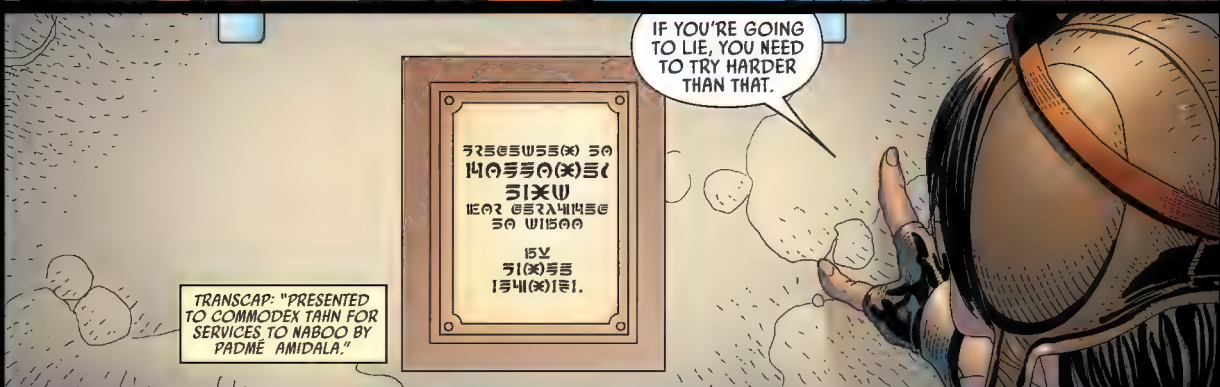


I'M SORRY, BUT THAT'S NOT GOING TO
BE SOMETHING YOU HAVE ANY SAY IN,
COMMODOX TAHN.

HELLO!



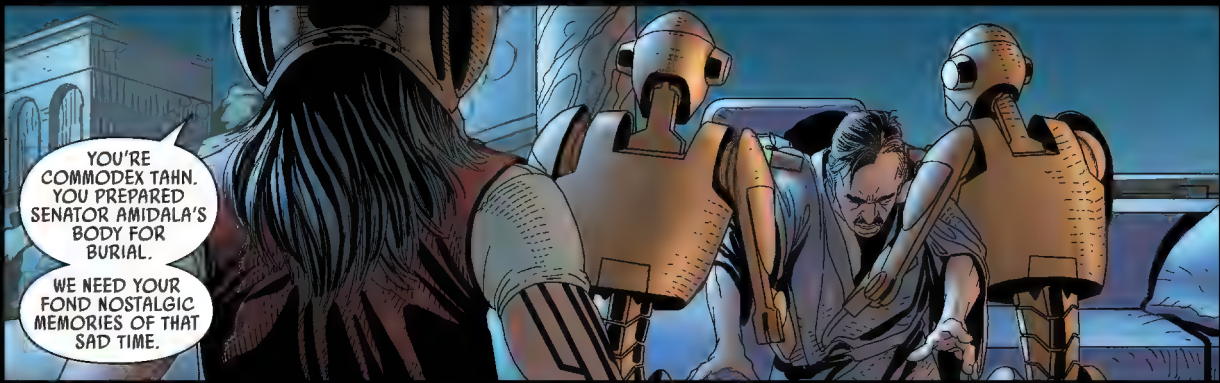
COMMODOX
WHO?



IF YOU'RE GOING
TO LIE, YOU NEED
TO TRY HARDER
THAN THAT.

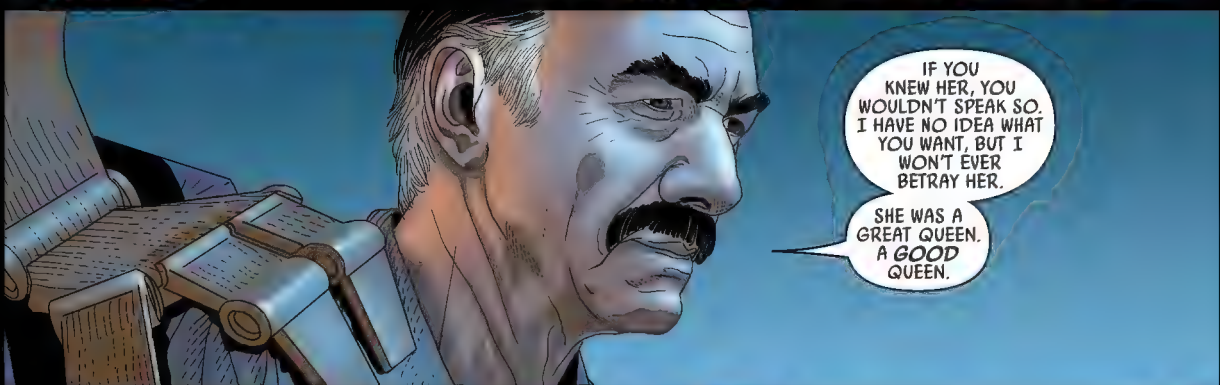
TRANSCAP: "PRESENTED
TO COMMODOX TAHN FOR
SERVICES TO NABOO BY
PADME AMIDALA."

TRANSCAP: "PRESENTED
TO COMMODOX TAHN FOR
SERVICES TO NABOO BY
PADME AMIDALA."



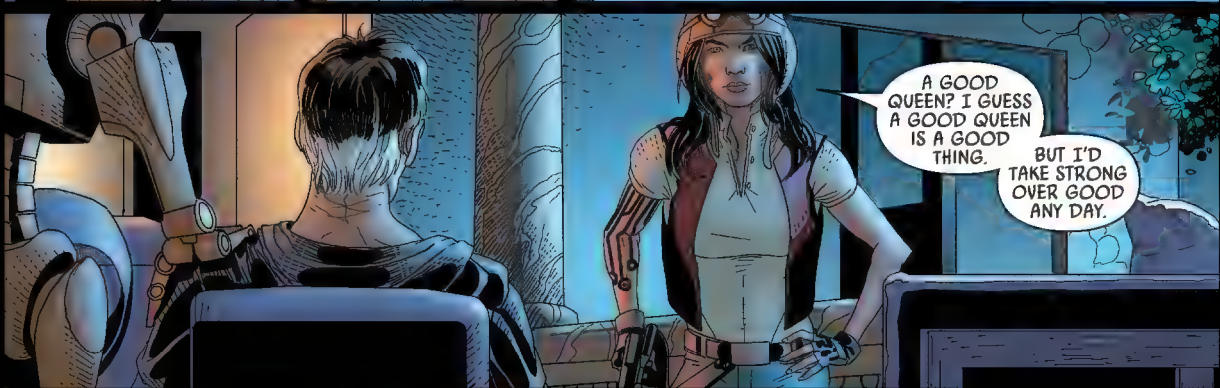
YOU'RE
COMMODORE TAHN.
YOU PREPARED
SENATOR AMIDALA'S
BODY FOR
BURIAL.

WE NEED YOUR
FOND NOSTALGIC
MEMORIES OF THAT
SAD TIME.



IF YOU
KNEW HER, YOU
WOULDN'T SPEAK SO.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT
YOU WANT, BUT I
WON'T EVER
BETRAY HER.

SHE WAS A
GREAT QUEEN.
A **GOOD**
QUEEN.



A **GOOD**
QUEEN? I GUESS
A **GOOD** QUEEN
IS A **GOOD**
THING.

BUT I'D
TAKE STRONG
OVER **GOOD**
ANY DAY.



"THE ENDS
JUSTIFY THE
MEANS."

EASY TO
SAY WHEN
YOU'RE NOT THE
MEANS.



PTTH. WHEN
YOU WERE PLAYING
COURTIER ON NABOO,
I WAS TRYING TO GROW
UP LIVING IN A
GALACTIC WAR.

I HAD
A MOM WHO
PRETENDED WE
WEREN'T.



HOMESTEAD,
ON THE FRONTIER, A
BRAVE SPIRITUAL LIFE ON
A NEW WORLD AFTER A
SPLIT FROM DAD.

THE THING
WITH WARS--IF THE WAR
DOESN'T GET YOU, ALL
THE SCUM OPPORTUNISTS
PROFITING FROM THE
CHAOS WILL.



RAIDERS
CAME IN.

MOM TOLD
ME TO RUN.
I DID.



BUT I CAME BACK WITH THIS
AWESOME CANNON I FOUND
IN A CAVE I WAS EXPLORING
AND BLEW THEM ALL
TO PIECES.

I SAVED
EVERYONE.



AND DAD CAME BACK, WE
ALL LIVED HAPPILY EVER
AFTER, AND NOW I SPEND MY
TIME WANDERING THE GALAXY
RECOVERING AWESOME
CANNONS.

MY MOM
DEFINITELY DIDN'T
DIE IN A DITCH ON A
DEAD-END FOREST
WORLD WE ONLY WENT
TO BECAUSE SHE WAS
SO IDEALISTIC.

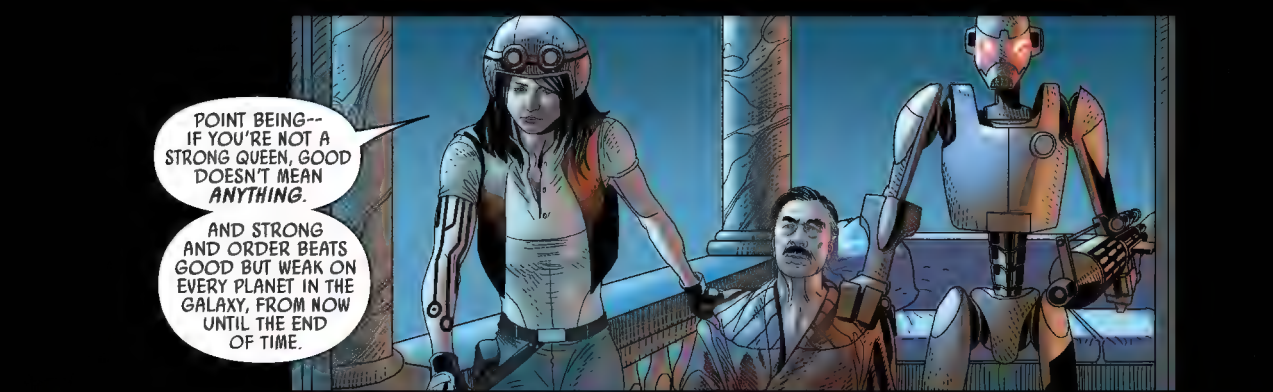


I'M
SORRY.



WEREN'T YOU
LISTENING? THERE
WAS A WAR GOING
ON. EVERYONE HAS
A SOB STORY.

BOO-HOO FOR
EVERYONE.

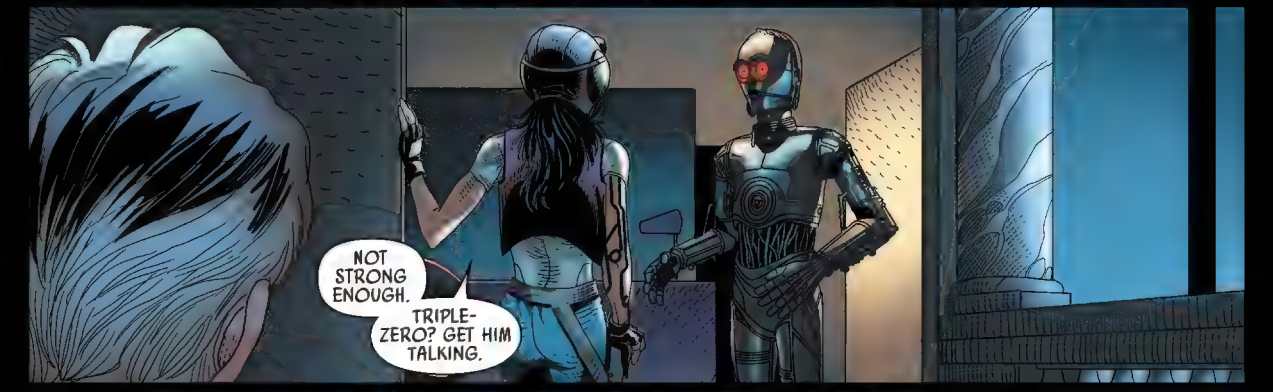


POINT BEING--
IF YOU'RE NOT A
STRONG QUEEN, GOOD
DOESN'T MEAN
ANYTHING.

AND STRONG
AND ORDER BEATS
GOOD BUT WEAK ON
EVERY PLANET IN THE
GALAXY, FROM NOW
UNTIL THE END
OF TIME.



AMIDALA WAS
GOOD AND
STRONG.

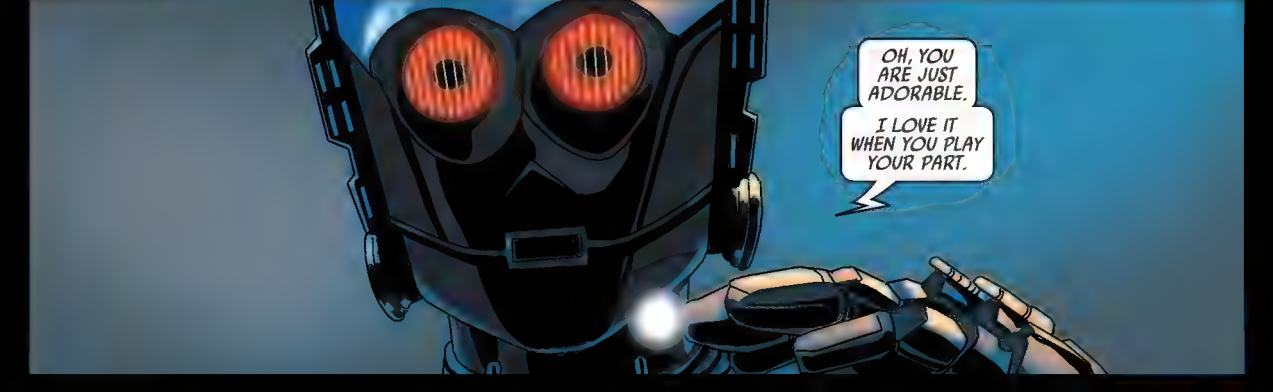


NOT
STRONG
ENOUGH.

TRIPLE-
ZERO? GET HIM
TALKING.

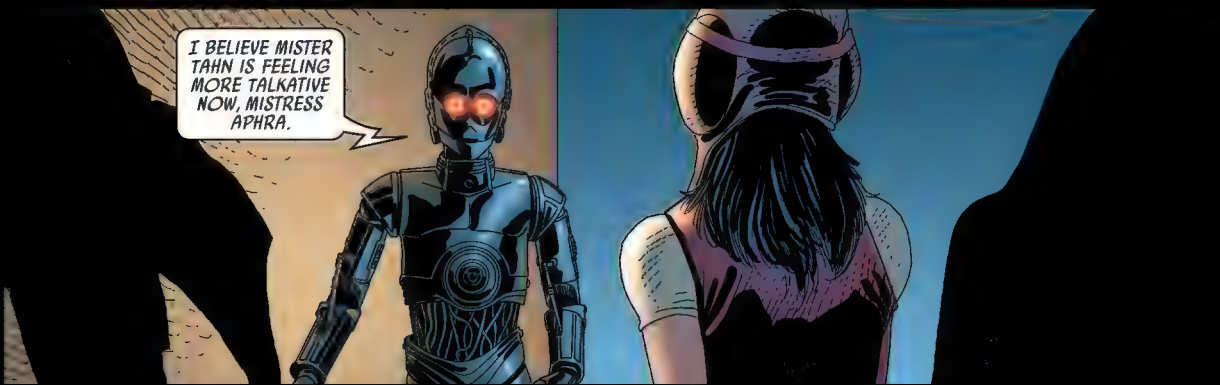
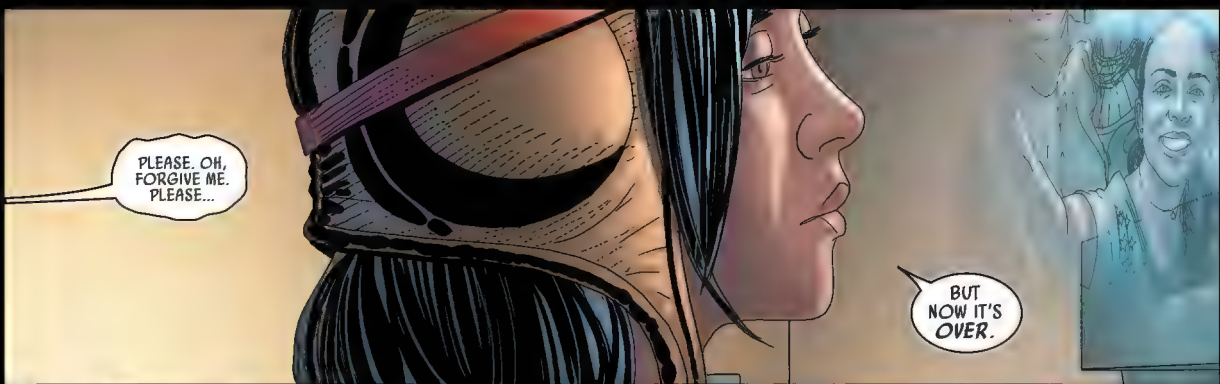


YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO
GET ANYTHING
FROM ME.



OH, YOU
ARE JUST
ADORABLE.

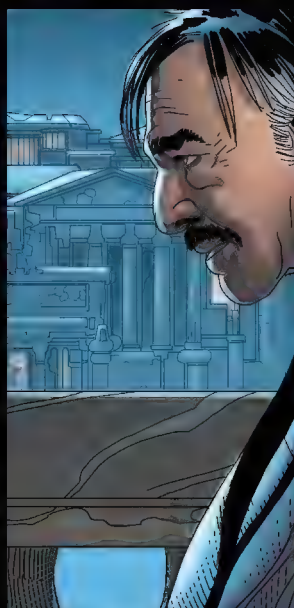
I LOVE IT
WHEN YOU PLAY
YOUR PART.





AMIDALA'S HOLOGRAM WHEN SHE WAS BURIED MADE HER APPEAR LIKE SHE WAS STILL PREGNANT.

BUT YOU, MISTER MORTICIAN, WERE ONE OF THE VERY FEW PEOPLE WHO HAD ANY ACCESS TO THE BODY. YOU KNOW THE TRUTH.



SENATOR AMIDALA HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO A SON.



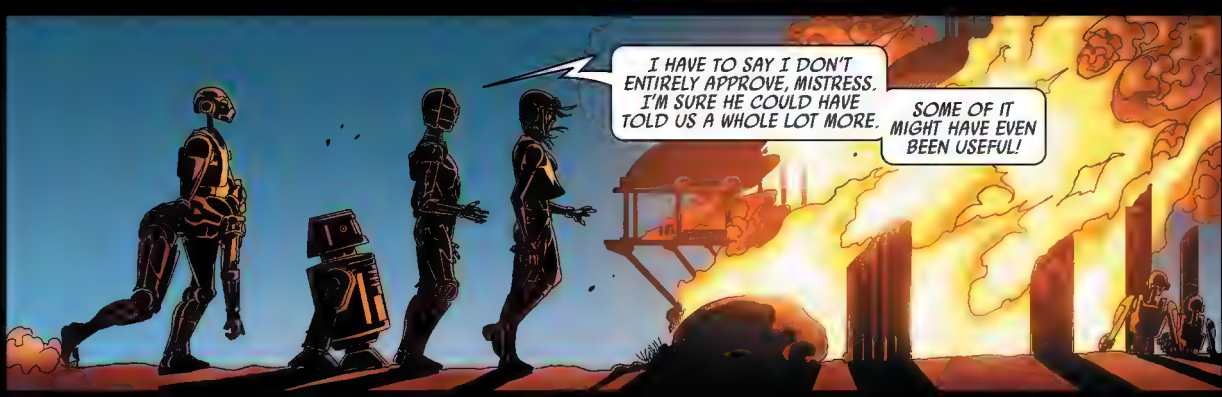
RIGHT? SHE HAD A SON. THE JEDI TOOK THAT BOY AND PUT HIM INTO HIDING.

THIS CAN ALL BE OVER IF YOU JUST CONFIRM WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW...



YES. SHE HAD A SON. A HEALTHY BOY. THEY TOOK HIM AWAY.





I HAVE TO SAY I DON'T ENTIRELY APPROVE, MISTRESS. I'M SURE HE COULD HAVE TOLD US A WHOLE LOT MORE.

SOME OF IT MIGHT HAVE EVEN BEEN USEFUL!



NO, TRIPLE-ZERO.

WE WERE HERE TO DO THE JOB, NOT BE SADISTS.



HMMH. KINDLY SPEAK FOR YOURSELF.



SO, THERE'S A POSSIBLE NABOO HEIR OUT THERE.



VADER'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW THE FULL STORY.





ER...



...ANYTHING ELSE ON THE TO-DO LIST, LORD VADER?



ANOTHER IMPERIAL AGENT HAS BEEN TASKED TO LOCATE THE BOY WHO DESTROYED THE DEATH STAR.
WE MUST FIND HIM FIRST.

THE ANTE WAS HINTING HE KNOWS A LOT. IF IMPERIAL INTELLIGENCE HAS A LEAD, I'LL BET HE'LL HAVE BETTER.



YOU HAVE THE FUNDS. ARRANGE A MEETING. OFFER WHAT IS REQUIRED.



ON IT. ANY OTHER PROBLEMS ON THE HORIZON?

MY CURRENT ADJUTANT IS... SOMEWHAT EAGER AND ENTHUSIASTIC.



THE EMPIRE WRITES BACK

DARTH VADER

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away is a lot easier to get to than you think – and we want to hear from you! Write us at StarWars@Marvel.com if you want to make it onto a future letters page. Don't forget to mark the letter "GK TO PRINT."

Hi team!

I read *Darth Vader* #6 recently (as well as all of the new *Star Wars* series), and have a burning question. In *Empire Strikes Back*, the Emperor mentions he has no doubt the boy who destroyed the Death Star was the "offspring of Anakin Skywalker." Vader asks, "How is that possible?" In light of Vader's discovery in *Darth Vader* #6, was Vader simply being coy? The *Empire Strikes Back* text crawl does mention Vader was "obsessed" with finding young Skywalker.

Max

That's the reading I was going for. With Vader being explicitly obsessed with Skywalker in advance of the Emperor telling him about his origins suggests that it isn't news for him. Plus Vader's response is a little restrained to the size of the news. You've seen how I wrote Vader discovering this. That Vader didn't trash the whole room implies it's not exactly news for him. I suspect the bigger question is does the Emperor know that Vader knows... - KG

Dear Marvel,

The *Darth Vader* book is my favorite one out there right now. I really enjoy reading it and I love when a new issue is out – but I hate when I'm done reading it because I have to wait for the next one. I've always enjoyed Vader as a character and as a villain and how great of a job you all do with each and every issue. I can't wait to read the next one.

Thanks,
Bréndan Tedford

I approve of this opinion. When I become Emperor of the universe, you can live. - KG

Dear Marvel,

Great job so far rebooting the *Star Wars* line! I'm particularly pleased to see your *Darth Vader* series has resurrected Cassio Tagge as Vader's Imperial counterpart. It's always nice to see classic characters given a new life. Tagge always was one of the more interesting Imperials to me who, along with Firmus Piett, had much more of a developed character than the usual Imperial bad guy.

Of course Imperials have a relatively short life when dealing with a certain Dark Lord, so please keep him around for a while! It would be interesting to see Tagge's more tactical and reserved leadership steer the Empire in the wake of the Death Star's destruction, so now that you've brought him back to life, please develop him into the interesting character he can be!

While I'm at it, here's also a request to see perhaps a young Firmus Piett ascend the Imperial ranks as well!

Cheers,
Mike

Glad you approve, Mike. When we were initially talking over the direction we wanted to take the story, Tagge was suggested as a possibility of someone with an implied different opinion of tactical and strategic doctrine. Suffice to say, we'll have more of that in the near future. We're planning the arc that follows VADER DOWN, which definitely explores those areas. - KG

Dear Marvel,

First, you guys have been awesome. Congrats to the entire *Darth Vader* comic team. Every full-page spread has been more amazing than the last one and that is hard to top issue after issue.

Second, a nagging question: if the Triple-Zero matrix had been locked up for 'centuries' as we learn in issue 3, and to restart BeeTee Aphra had to load it into the droid Triple-Zero, then how can Triple-Zero say he is also a product of the Tarkin's initiative? Only way I can square that is the chassis is from the Tarkin era, but the software is old. But why would Tarkin era scientists be using centuries old coding?

Jared D. Cantor

I'm sure we'll get to BeeTee and Triple-Zero's origins in more detail down the line, but in terms of a working theory, you've basically got the basics. In terms of why? Well, Triple-Zero is unusual. He's a really interesting artifact of an earlier era that the Tarkin Initiative thought about removing from quarantine and re-examining, before thinking better of it and locking it away again. - KG

Dear Kieron,

In the theatre we know the importance of blocking or staging a scene. Being able to make a drawing of Darth Vader as frightening as he can be in the movies is difficult.

Please congratulate the artists on Issue 8. When Vader met Inspector Thanoth and you chose to have him greet him sideways, not even turning his head to look at him and simply say "As the Emperor wishes," the result was chilling. Not even LOOKING at him.

Brilliant staging.

Keep up the excellent work!
Buck Connelly

Thanks, Buck. Salva is doing astounding work on *Darth Vader*, in terms of getting the cinematic feel we're looking for. A big part of our thinking – both here and over on *Star Wars* – is that to do everything we can to make it feel like *Star Wars*. Not *Star Wars* Comic Adaptations...actual *Star Wars*. In terms of staging characters, that's very much in how we try to treat Vader. He's got to have that big presence. Walking that line between making him a functional lead and not reducing his sheer intimidation factor is a big chunk of what I spend my time worrying about in the book. - KG

NEXT:

